

# Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## Regular Board Meeting

### Minutes

*Per Executive Order N-29-20, which allows local and state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, this Regular Meeting of the Board of Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency was held via Ring Central on Thursday May 20, 2021, and was accessed as follows:*

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/4925808335?pwd=bjdCeVprVGN4TWpuNXNtRTqrRXNMUT09>

Meeting ID: 492 580 8335

Password: 05202021

Telephone: (650) 242-4929

*The public participated in the meeting as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act by logging into Ring Central.*

1. **Call to Order** – The Regular Board Meeting of the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency was called to order by Chairman Ernest “Buddy” Mendes at 2:03 p.m. and the following directors were present via Ring Central, Ag Production, Steve Boos; Cities, Mary Fast; Tulare County, Eddie Valero; and Irrigation Districts Alternate, Jack Paxton. Drinking Water District director, Fernie Rubalcaba, joined the meeting at 2:20 p.m. Director(s) absent: Alta Irrigation District, Jack Brandt. Also, in attendance – Alta Irrigation District, General Manager Chad Wegley, Operations Manager Marc Limas, and attorney Lauren D. Layne. Twelve (12) members of the public were also on Ring Central.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – None.
3. **Potential Conflicts of Interest** – None.
4. **Public Comment** – Landowner Andrew Hart had questions on rules and regulations of the GSA and if the GSA was planning on regulating groundwater pumping.
5. **Communications** – A written request was received by the GSA for information about ground water in their area; parcel location was not provided. The GSA’s response mentioned that information would be provided once the exact location of the parcel or landowner was identified.
6. **Audit Presentation** – The fiscal year end September 30, 2020, audit was presented. In the opinion of the auditor, the financial statements present fairly in all material respects. It was M/S by Valero/Fast to accept the fiscal year end September 30, 2020, audit. The vote was taken by roll call as follows: Director Valero, aye; Vice Chair Fast, aye; Chairman Mendes, aye; Director Boos, aye; Alternate Director Paxton, aye. Motion passed unanimously (Directors Brandt and Rubalcaba were absent). (see Insert 6.1)
7. **Board of Director Reports – Discuss and Consider for Action** – Vice Chair Fast commented on federal and state funds available and if any of these funds can be used for water storage.
8. **Consent Calendar Items** – It was M/S by Valero/Boos to approve the Consent Calendar. The vote was taken by roll call as follows: Director Valero, aye; Director Boos, aye; Chairman Mendes, aye; Vice Chair Fast, aye; and Alternate Director Paxton, aye. Motion passed unanimously (Directors Brandt and Rubalcaba absent).
  - 8.1. Payables – Review and approve payment of January, March, May 2021 invoices (see Insert 8.1)
  - 8.2. Board Meeting Minutes – Review and approve minutes of November 19, 2020, regular Board meeting.

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#### 9. Other Board Items – Take Action

- 9.1. Treasurer's Statement – Board of Directors reviewed the Treasurer's statement for the periods ending November and December 2020, and January, February, March, April 2021, and it was M/S by Fast/Rubalcaba to accept the Treasurer's statement. The vote was taken by roll call as follows. Vice Chair Fast, aye; Director Rubalcaba, aye; Chairman Mendes, aye; Director Boos, aye; Alternate Director Paxton, aye; and Director Valero, aye. Motion passed unanimously (Director Brandt absent). (see Insert 9.1)
- 9.2. Grant Reimbursements – The retention of approximately \$21,000 due from DWR on the Prop 1 grant is outstanding. The final report was delivered to DWR along with a request for payment of retention.

#### 10. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – Review for Possible Action

- 10.1. GSA Invoices – Approximately \$1,000,000 was billed in Prop 26 fees for a three-year period covering 2018, 2019, and 2020, with ninety-six percent (96%) collected to date. Staff is working on collecting the remainder of unpaid bills from landowners.
- 10.2. Groundwater Sustainability Activities – General Manager Wegley reported the Annual Report was submitted by the April 1, 2021, deadline. The Kings Subbasin had a 550,000 acre-foot change in water levels. Two (2) monitor wells within the GSA are near their measurable objectives and one (1) monitor well is below the measurable objective, but depth to water is about twenty-five (25) feet. Remainder of the monitor wells within the GSA have water levels above the minimum threshold. The Kings Subbasin was successful in securing funds from the Prop 68 grant; the Sultana storm water project received funds. DWR has not released comments on the GSP, comments are due in 2021. Work continues on verification of well construction for those wells in the monitoring network.

#### 11. Legal Issues – Review for Possible Action

- 11.1. Attorney Legal Update – Attorney Layne gave an updated on various pending legislation.

#### 12. Future Agenda Item(s) – None.

13. **Adjournment** – There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Ernest “Buddy” Mendes at 2:40 p.m., until the next regular scheduled meeting on August 19, 2021.

Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Jack Brandt, Secretary

JB:ml